

THE Nexus

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State Librarian Ann Joslin

ICfL Grieves Over Passing of Board Member Larry Weeks

Commissioner Larry Weeks passed away on June 6, 2015. Weeks served on the Idaho Board of Library Commissioners for 19 years and was recently [honored for 25 years of volunteering](#) at the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL). During that time, Weeks narrated local and regional books for the Idaho Talking Book Service (TBS), recording 23 books—including a two-volume, 28-hour recording of the *History of Idaho*, which took over a year to record. He especially loved reading history books and also recorded many of our local magazines.



Larry Weeks was an ICfL board member for 19 years and volunteer for 25 years

Inside this issue:

Notes from ICfL	2-3
Library News From Around the State	4
Idaho Library Snapshot Day Results	4
Celebrating Letters About Literature Contest Winners	5
Living the Community's Vision	6
SPLAT Corner	6
"Outside the Lines" Week	7
Upcoming Leadership Development Opportunities	7
Online Donations to Your Public Library	8
Upcoming Conferences	8

Weeks served under both the Idaho State Library and Idaho Commission for Libraries, during the administration of two state librarians, and while the Commission was under the State Board of Education and then a self-governing agency. One of his strengths as a Board member was his understanding of the differences between the role of the Board and that of agency administration. In addition, his years of experience as an attorney made him sensitive to the legal aspect of various issues. Weeks was also instrumental in the change to our mission statement to "assist libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele." He was supportive of the work the Commission does, and never hesitated to praise staff for their contributions. Weeks very much enjoyed the annual fall Board tour and the opportunity to visit a wide variety of libraries in different parts of the state.

Some years ago, when asked what motivated him to volunteer so much time for the benefit of libraries, Weeks told the story of how, as a grade-schooler, he frequented the Twin Falls Public Library. A librarian noticed his advanced reading interests and began suggesting books for him, telling him that if he had questions or didn't like her selection to come back and discuss it with her. This reader's advisor instilled in him the value of reading, and he was influenced to pursue an undergraduate degree in English Literature and History as a result of this early reading experience.

continued on page 2

**Idaho Commission
for Libraries**

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Mission:

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

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John Held, Dave Mecham,
Pat Raffee, Sara Staub,
and Larry Weeks

State Librarian

Ann Joslin

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- Roger Dubois, administrative services manager
- Shirley Biladeau, continuing education consultant
- Staci Shaw, reading programs coordinator
- Stephanie Bailey-White, reading programs coordinator
- Sue Walker, Talking Book Service consultant
- Teresa Lipus, public information specialist

Weeks will be remembered with gratitude for his dedication to library services in Idaho, his skill in narrating regional books for TBS, and his friendly sense of humor. He will be greatly missed.

Notes from ICfL**IT Academy pilot**

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is working closely with the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) and an Idaho Library Association ad hoc committee on the implementation process for providing Microsoft IT Academy to public schools and public libraries in Idaho. Funding for the statewide program will come from the SDE budget, and the online programs will be free to public schools and public libraries. To opt in as providers of Microsoft IT Academy services, schools and libraries should go to Google Forms (Microsoft IT Academy) at <https://goo.gl/BNQqqo>. This is a non-binding commitment, designed to help SDE determine interest. More information to come.

Make It At the Library

Idaho's "Make It at the Library" project continues to garner national attention. Erica Compton, ICfL project coordinator and co-developer of the initiative, was one of about 30 invited experts at the June 11 Capitol Hill Maker Faire. She also showcased Idaho's maker movement during the National Maker Faire at the University of the District of Columbia June 12–13. The Maker Faire events were followed by the National Week of Making, June 12–18. See what some Idaho libraries did to celebrate at www.weekofmaking.org/events/. Idaho libraries are doing amazing things all over the state. Check them out at www.facebook.com/MakeItIdaho.

More Idaho Schools to Receive Library Access Mini-Grant Funds

Elementary school libraries play a vital role in ensuring that children develop strong literacy skills, starting in the earliest grades. Providing access to hundreds of age-appropriate quality books through school libraries—the school's vocabulary vault—is one of the most cost-effective strategies to increase literacy skills. In the past three years, ICfL awarded Read to Me "School Library Access Mini-Grants" to 92 schools to help them increase access to books, improve collections, and change check-out policies to better meet the needs of emerging readers. This year ICfL is able to award grant funds—ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000—to 48 schools. See the list of schools [here](#).

Read to Me Program Receives ICIRA Award

The Idaho Council of the International Reading Association (ICIRA) recently honored ICfL's Read to Me program for advancing early literacy statewide. ICIRA officers presented ICfL staff with a check for \$500 that will be used to purchase books for Literacy in the Park and other Summer Reading outreach efforts. Read [more](#).

**Libraries Building Community Summit**

Six public library teams, consisting of staff and community partners, convened in Boise in April for training on community building and project management. Each team identified a target audience and created a plan for next steps in providing library services to that defined audience. Pat Wagner of Pattern Research, Inc. facilitated the two-day process. The library teams from Caldwell, Eagle, East Bonner County, Hailey, Lewiston, and Meridian public libraries will spend the next six months working on their projects. In November, each library will showcase their project via a webinar, highlighting their successes, challenges, and opportunities.

Summer Reading Partnership with State Parks and Rec

Through an exciting new partnership with Idaho State Parks and Recreation, ICfL is offering free state park passes to Idaho public libraries that are hosting summer reading programs. The Youth Explorer Passes will waive the entry fee for one vehicle for one day to any Idaho state park. The passes may be used for summer reading in a variety of ways. To order passes for your public library or find out more about the program, click [here](#).

Literacy in the Park and Summer Learning

Literacy in the Park, a summer learning initiative ICfL introduced in 2013, is once again in full swing through August 7, offering kids storytime, activities, and books to borrow from traveling lending libraries. Piggybacking on the Idaho Foodbank's Picnic in the Park initiative and the Idaho State Department of Education's Summer Food Service Program, ICfL and participating area libraries stage Literacy in the Park events weekly at numerous summer-feeding locations throughout the Treasure Valley. A third of the public libraries in the state are planning similar outreach efforts this summer at feeding sites along with visits to daycares, migrant and seasonal Head Start programs, and summer school programs. ICfL is providing over 10,000 paperbacks for public libraries to use in these efforts.

2015 Legislative Session Recap

ICfL's FY2016 Appropriation Bill [HO250](#) was signed and will go into effect July 1, 2015. The one-time \$100,000 increase for our Elementary School Library Access Mini-Grants becomes permanent in FY2016, for an ongoing total of \$200,000 for this program. Other bills introduced during the 2015 Legislature that affect ICfL or the Idaho library community include changes to the Open Meeting Laws, the Sunshine Act, and provisions for public library district annual meetings and oaths of office. See summaries and links to the laws [here](#).

ICfL will print a new edition of the *Idaho Library Laws Manual* soon.

Reminder about Internet Policy and Filtering Laws for Public Libraries -

Internet Policy and Filtering: On October 1, 2012, the internet policy and filtering legislation took effect for public libraries (city and district). Part of the law mandates a policy review every three years. Take a look at when your policy was adopted and review/revise/adopt the policy within the three years required by Idaho Code 33-2741. For more information about the filtering/policy legislation, go to Internet Use in Public Libraries – Policy and Procedure Resources at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/InternetUsePolicies> or contact your ICfL area field consultant.



Library News From Around the State

Find out what is happening in Idaho libraries. Do you have news about your library that you'd like to share in an upcoming Nexus e-newsletter? Please let me know at teresa.lipus@libraries.idaho.gov.

Bellevue Public Library received an anonymous donation of \$20,000 this spring. Read more at KTMV's online [article](#).

Elections results, May 19:

Burley Public Library Override Levy passed, with 244 (55.1%) in favor and 199 (44.9%) against.

Priest Lake Library Permanent Override Levy passed, with 69.8% voting yes and 30.2% voting no.

Garden City Public Library received \$1,000 from the Idaho Humanities Council to purchase new books for its Bells for Books program, which serves low income children and their families in the Garden City area. The Garden City Library Foundation received a \$5,000 grant from the Idaho Community Foundation, Gladys E. Langroise Advised Fund.

Midvale Community Library District welcomed new director Heather Dixon.

Oneida County District Library held an Open House on May 14 celebrating 100 years of service to the community.

Patricia Romanko Public Library, Parma, welcomed new director Glenys Rasmussen.

Twin Falls Public Library welcomed new director Tara Bartley. A reception for retiring director Susan Ash was held at the library April 30.



Idaho Library Snapshot Day 2015 Results

In April 2015, during National Library Week, Idaho libraries from around the state tracked their activities with statistics and photos, creating a snapshot of a day in the life of Idaho libraries and capturing the impact they have on their communities.

See a 4-minute [video](#) and a Word Document with [complete results and participating libraries](#).

53 libraries participated, submitting statistics and/or photos:

- 32 public library locations
- 5 academic libraries
- 14 school libraries
- 2 special libraries

In one day in these Idaho libraries:

- 26,225 people visited the library.
- 80 classes visited school libraries.
- 33,555 items were circulated.
- 3,015 reference questions were answered.
- 72 job seekers were helped (résumé, job search, etc.).
- 1,900 students were helped (homework).
- 3,383 people used the public access computer (Internet/word processing/games, etc.).
- 1,473 student computer users
- 2,672 people used the Internet with their own devices.
- 590 volunteer hours were worked at libraries.
- 604 people were taught computer/device/Internet skills.
- 220 library cards were issued/borrowers were registered.

See more results, example reference questions, and library user comments at libraries.idaho.gov/IdahoSnapshot.



Celebrating Letters About Literature 2015 Contest Winners

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) honored the Idaho winners of the 2015 “Letters About Literature” contest during an Awards Luncheon at the Capitol Dining Room in the Statehouse on May 1. State Librarian Ann Joslin congratulated the students and thanked them for their thoughtful, organized, and heartfelt letters. She also expressed appreciation to family members and teachers who attended the event for supporting the students’ love of literature and providing encouragement for their writing. “Literature allows us to experience life through another’s eyes, giving us new perspective and developing empathy, tolerance, and insight,” said Joslin.



Idaho author N.D. Wilson, the keynote speaker, talked about his favorite genres as a kid and told the story of how his parents broadened his literary horizons when he had nearly given up reading. The event was also attended by State Superintendent Sherri Ybarra and one of our state-level judges, Dr. Stan Steiner. Each of the 12 Idaho winners received a Visa gift card; a framed personalized certificate signed by Ann Joslin, State Librarian; a new hardbound book; and a copy of Wilson’s novel *Boys of Blur*, which he signed after the event.

This year’s winners are:

Level I, Grades 4-6:

1st Place—Jeneva Dredge, 4th grade, Ammon Elementary School, Ammon
2nd Place—Katy Heywood, 6th grade, Wood River Middle School, Hailey
3rd Place—Kaili Jeffery, 6th grade, Snake River Montessori, Ammon
Honorable Mention—Alex Grant, 5th grade, St Paul’s Catholic School, Nampa

Level II, Grades 7-8

1st Place—Catherine Ji, 8th grade, North Junior High, Boise
2nd Place—Sara Bennett, 8th grade, St Paul’s Catholic School, Nampa
3rd place—Amber Leyba, 8th grade, Idaho Science and Technology Charter School, Blackfoot
Honorable Mention—Hannah Maag, 8th grade, River City Middle School, Post Falls

Level III, Grades 9-12

1st Place—Miles Maxcer, 11th grade, Moscow High School, Moscow
2nd Place—Kendall Thiede, 10th grade, Timberline High School, Boise
3rd Place—Catherine Dillon, 10th grade, Timberline High School, Boise
Honorable Mention—Luisa Graden, 11th grade, Moscow High School, Moscow

Letters About Literature is a national contest coordinated and funded by the Library of Congress Center for the Book. Idaho Commission for Libraries is a state-level partner. Students in grades 4–12 read a book from any genre and write a personal letter to the author explaining how the book changed their views of the world or themselves. “These talented young readers were among 339 Idaho students who participated in this year’s contest,” said Pam Bradshaw, program supervisor at the Commission. “We are extremely proud of all of the students who took part, because they are developing a lifelong love of literature, reading, and learning.” Idaho’s 1st place letters advanced to the National Competition, where a panel of national judges selected one national winner and one second place winner per competition level.

Special thanks to our 2015 Idaho judges—Dr. Stan Steiner, Boise State University, (grades 4-6); Dr. Susan Swetnam, Idaho State University, (grades 7-8); and Dr. Ronald McFarland, University of Idaho, (grades 9-12)—who volunteered their time and expertise to read and rank the Idaho entries.



Living the Community's Vision: A Summary *by Shirley Biladeau and Teresa Lipus* (Full article is posted at libraries.idaho.gov/blogs/living-community-vision/.)

Between 2000 and 2014, Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) completed 33 Community Reviews around the state. In 2014, Josh Hightree, working with the Center for Resilient Communities at the University of Idaho, conducted a meta-analysis of 26 of these Community Reviews and provided the results to IRP. Out of 67 community values ranked in the reviews, fire protection was most valued. Second in importance was the quality of the library—outranking basic services such as garbage collection/disposal, water supply/quality, quality of K–12 education, and availability and quality of healthcare services.

Idaho Commission for Libraries staff interviewed the directors of five highly-rated libraries to identify key contributing factors in the libraries' community value. Some common themes emerged as the directors spoke of the library's role in the community and why they thought their libraries were highly ranked.

Highly Valued Library Services

All five directors believe that their community members value the Internet, community space, customer service, and programs the library provides. Public access Internet, computers, and online resources at the library support workforce development, educational needs, recreational activities, and connections with friends and family. Community space is valued for meetings, a safe place for teens, and numerous activities. Customer service is the key to getting people in the door and coming back. Programs provide cultural opportunities, early and family literacy resources, recreation/edutainment, workforce development, computer skill-building, after-school programs, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) learning.

Supporting These Valued Services

Librarians support and enhance these valued library services by listening to what the community needs, developing community partnerships, engaging their trustees, and demonstrating library leadership. Librarians identify community needs by listening to their patrons and getting out into the community. Librarians nurture community partnerships with businesses, schools, government entities, and other organizations. Effective libraries recruit trustees who serve as community liaisons and keep well-informed about community activities. Library leadership involves continuous planning; sharing information so people realize how they can work together to get somewhere at the same time; and being resourceful and flexible regardless of which path is taken to get there.

IRP's analysis shows that public libraries are contributing to rural sustainability by helping meet needs that are common across many rural communities. View IRP Community Reviews at irp.idaho.gov/home/community_review/.

SPLAT Corner

The Special Projects Library Action Team (SPLAT) acts in the "crow's nest" capacity, searching for innovation, proposing and leading experiments and pilot projects, and discovering new opportunities. SPLAT members pledge to build their own expertise in innovative practices and share their expertise and experiences with their colleagues in the Idaho library community. Check out their most recent blogs at splat.lili.org/, which include the following: [Reminder #347 – Give Webjunction a Try!](#), [Niche Academy](#), [Ingress: Location Based Sci-Fi Scavenger Game](#), and [StumbleUpon this!](#).





“Outside the Lines” Week

[Outside the Lines](#) is a weeklong celebration—September 13–19, 2015—demonstrating the creativity and innovation in libraries. Whether your organization is large or small, a school library or a public library, you can participate by hosting at least one event or campaign that:



1. gets people thinking and talking about libraries in a different way.
2. showcases the library out in the community as well as in the library.
3. highlights how your library is relevant to people’s lives.
4. represents your local community.
5. is active versus passive – gets people engaged.
6. is extraordinary and unexpected.
7. most importantly, is fun!

Outside the Lines is an initiative designed by Colorado library marketers and directors that gets libraries “walking the walk” – taking action to show communities how important libraries are and how they’ve changed. This celebration takes many of the concepts discussed at [R-Squared – The Risk & Reward Conference](#), such as creativity, customer curiosity, culture, community and creative spaces, and puts them into action where they count – in our local communities.

Check it out at getoutsidethelines.org/ and see which Idaho library has already signed up!

Upcoming Leadership Development Opportunities

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) is pleased to announce two leadership development opportunities that will be available for staff working in publicly-funded libraries in Idaho. This is part of the Library Leadership Advisory Committee initiative that has developed since the April 2014 Leadership Training Needs Assessment Summit. Registration for both of these events will be a first-come, first-served basis. A waiting list will be maintained to fill cancellations.

Opportunity #1: Accelerated Leadership Workshop

The Idaho Library Association and the Idaho Commission for Libraries will host the “Accelerated Leadership Workshop” on September 30 at Boise State University. Registration for this event will be via the Idaho Library Association website idaholibraries.org/conferences/ila-annual-conference/. There is no registration fee for the workshop; however, some participant expectations will need to be met in order to attend, both before and after the event. For more information go to libraries.idaho.gov/leadership.



Registration will open in early July and close August 14, 2015.

Opportunity #2: Lead the Change Workshop

Library Journal’s “Lead the Change – What Great Library Leaders Know and Do” workshop has been scheduled for November 10, 2015 at Boise Public Library in Boise, Idaho. Sixty seats have been reserved for Idaho library staff working in publicly-funded Idaho libraries. For more information regarding participant expectations go to libraries.idaho.gov/leadership. All requests for registration will be handled by the Idaho Commission for Libraries. If you and/or your staff wish to participate in this event, each individual must complete the registration request form found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJIdaho. All travel and lodging costs are the responsibility of the attendee.



Deadline for requesting registration is September 15, 2015.



Online Donations to Your Public Library

Have you thought about collecting donations through your public library website? Here are a couple of options to consider:



- Use your existing payment processor. If you already have an online payment option for collecting fines, your customer rep should be able to provide you with a web interface for adding an online donation option.
- Use an online payment service such as PayPal. Numerous services are available. (Idaho Commission for Libraries does not endorse any specific online payment option.)

Factors to consider when choosing one include digital security, customer service, convenience, and costs (start up, per-transaction fees, monthly rates, etc.). For additional tips, see “How to Select an Online Payment Service Provider” at <http://knowledge.wildapricot.com/display/technology/How+to+Select+an+Online+Payment+Service+Provider>.

Other things to consider when deciding whether to set up online donations include how potential donors will know it is an option on your website and how you will connect with donors after an online donation to make sure they receive the receipts and acknowledgement they need. For other ideas, see “10 Online Fundraising Best Practices for Nonprofits” at www.nptechforgood.com/2014/08/24/10-online-fundraising-best-practices-for-nonprofits/. And, don’t forget to let people know that their contributions are tax deductible. In Idaho, individuals and corporations who contribute to public libraries are eligible for additional tax credit. See more at libraries.idaho.gov/page/public-library-contribution-tax-credit and visit libraries.idaho.gov/page/donate to see what the Commission’s Donate page looks like.

Online donations have increasingly become the preferred method for many potential donors. Check out some of the resources mentioned above and see if an online donation option makes sense for your library.

Upcoming Annual Conferences

- [PNLA 2015 Annual Conference](#) (Pacific Northwest Library Association); “Pushing the Boundaries,” August 5–7; Hilton Vancouver; Vancouver, WA: **REGISTER** by July 3, 2015 to save on the registration.
- [ILA 2015 Annual Conference](#) (Idaho Library Association); “Libraries Leading the Way,” September 30–October 2: Pre-Conference is September 30, Conference is October 1–2; Boise State University; Boise Idaho.
- [ARSL 2015 Annual Conference](#) (Association of Rural and Small Libraries); “Rockin’ in Little Rock,” September 30–October 3: Pre-Conference is September 30, Post-Conference is October 3; Little Rock Marriott, Little Rock, Arkansas: **REGISTER** by August 29, 2015 to save on the registration.

